

Message

From: Aunkst, Dana [aunkst.dana@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/1/2021 6:17:52 PM
To: Esher, Diana [Esher.Diana@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Draft Conowingo Dam Watershed Implementation Plan

Thanks, Diana. I had not seen this set of comments.

Dana Aunkst, Director
Chesapeake Bay Program Office
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 112
Annapolis, MD 21403
(410) 267-5710

From: Esher, Diana <Esher.Diana@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 1:11 PM
To: Aunkst, Dana <aunkst.dana@epa.gov>; Libertz, Catherine <Libertz.Catherine@epa.gov>; Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>; Bisland, Carin <bisland.carin@epa.gov>; Jenkins, Bill <jenkins.bill@epa.gov>; McDonnell, Lee <McDonnell.Lee@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Draft Conowingo Dam Watershed Implementation Plan

Hello,

FYI - I wanted to make sure that you all have this email.

Diana

Diana Esher
Acting Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 3
215-814-2706
esher.diana@epa.gov

From: Morgan Johnson <morgan@waterkeeperschesapeake.org>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 12:17 PM
Subject: Draft Conowingo Dam Watershed Implementation Plan

Good Afternoon,

In October of 2020 the Chesapeake Bay Program released a call for comments on a draft Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan, or CWIP. This WIP was drafted and rolled out under the direction of the Trump administration EPA. When complete, the Conowingo Dam WIP will be its own plan--independent of the individual Bay jurisdiction WIPs, but will require significant funding and cooperation from each of the Bay states.

On January 21st, Waterkeepers Chesapeake, Earthjustice and the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper submitted these comments voicing significant concerns with the draft CWIP. (*See attached.*)

Our principal concerns with the plan are;

1. The Biden administration EPA has not had the opportunity to weigh in on the plan or how it will be funded;
2. The 192 million tons of sediment behind the Conowingo Dam are largely unaddressed by the draft;

3. The plan and financing statement signal that the Bay states and their respective taxpayers will ultimately fund the plan--not Exelon corporation who owns and operates the Conowingo Dam;
4. Practices outlined in the plan will overwhelmingly be localized upstream in rural Pennsylvania, leaving out other Bay states and urban communities who will ultimately fund the plan; and
5. The Bay jurisdictions will be responsible for the pollution load at the Dam if this plan falls through.

We included your office in a carbon copy, as this issue has region-wide significance and profound implications for water pollution and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

I appreciate your time, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance on this issue.

Best,

Morgan A. Johnson, Esq.
Staff Attorney
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
(C) 614.209.4559



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